



DEVAL L. PATRICK  
GOVERNOR

TIMOTHY P. MURRAY  
LT. GOVERNOR

MARY ELIZABETH HEFFERNAN  
SECRETARY

*The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*  
*Executive Office of Public Safety and Security*  
*Department of Fire Services*

*P.O. Box 1025 ~ State Road*

*Stow, Massachusetts 01775*

*(978) 567~3100 Fax: (978) 567~3121*

*www.mass.gov/dfs*



STEPHEN D. COAN  
STATE FIRE MARSHAL

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Heads of Fire Departments

**FROM:** Stephen D. Coan  
State Fire Marshal

**DATE:** April 1, 2010

**SUBJECT:** Home Oxygen Safety

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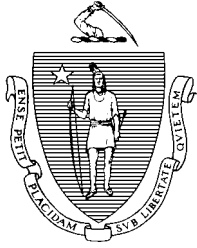
As State Fire Marshal, I have been concerned for a number of years by the loss of life and property caused by persons smoking while using home-based oxygen therapy equipment. Since 1997, there have been 26 fire fatalities related to home oxygen and, sadly, there have been 3 deaths since December, 2009. In January of this year, after years of dedication and hard work, the Task Force on Home Oxygen Safety and I unveiled a public awareness campaign on the fire dangers of home oxygen use.

Your department was recently mailed a CD. This CD contains a training program for use by firefighters, injury prevention professionals, and first responders for outreach efforts within your community. In addition, this CD includes printable versions of our brochure and poster, a sample press release and sample newsletter article. Printed posters will be made available to fire departments upon request. In addition, radio and television public service announcements will run on various media outlets through June, 2010.

I am pleased to provide you with this information on awareness and fire prevention for home oxygen safety. All resources can be found at [www.mass.gov/dfs](http://www.mass.gov/dfs). From the home page, follow the link under "News & Updates" labeled "Fire Safety Topics" to the link for "Home Oxygen Safety". For any additional resources, please contact the Department of Fire Services' Public Education desk at (978) 567-3380.

SDC/bhs  
Enc.

*Administrative Services • Division of Fire Safety*  
*Hazardous Materials Response • Massachusetts Firefighting Academy*



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## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Heads of Fire Departments

**FROM:** Stephen D. Coan  
State Fire Marshal

**DATE:** April 1, 2010

**SUBJECT:** **Thank You – Keep Warm Keep Safe Campaign**

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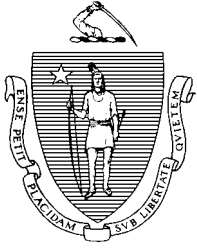
Thank you for your participation in the Department of Fire Service's *Keep Warm Keep Safe* public awareness campaign. With your help we were able to reach a far greater number of Massachusetts residents and provide them with winter safety tips. Massachusetts fire departments were part of a Coalition that included media organizations, regional transit authorities and the MBTA, and big box stores.

This was our second year of the *Keep Warm Keep Safe* campaign, and I'm proud to report that the community response has been very good. I believe that because of our fire safety education efforts, including this campaign, we were able to announce a record low number of fire deaths for 2009.

We hope that your department will join with us again next fall and winter to educate Massachusetts residents on the importance of fire safety under the umbrella of the *Keep Warm Keep Safe* message. If you have an idea of how we can work together please contact Barbara Steele in my office at (978) 567-3118 or [Barbara.Steele@state.ma.us](mailto:Barbara.Steele@state.ma.us). Thank you again for your partnering with us on this effort.

SDC/bhs

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**TO:** Heads of Fire Departments

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State Fire Marshal

**DATE:** April 1, 2010

**SUBJECT:** 527 CMR 32 – Approved Smoke Detectors

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This is to remind you that we have a special page with information on the new smoke detector regulations, 527 CMR 32. We encourage you to check this page for updates as we move toward the effective date of April 5, 2010.

We have added a link to a webinar that the Division of Fire Safety completed for the Massachusetts Association of Realtors. Also, in the near future a frequently asked questions section will be posted. So please check this page our regularly.

If you need further information, please contact the Department of Fire Services, Division of Fire Safety, at 978-567-3375 or in western masaachusetts at 413-587-3181.

# KIDS AND BOMBS

The Massachusetts State Police Fire and Explosion Investigation Section are conducting an 8-hour “Kids and Bombs” seminar. This seminar will include a review of the early warning indicators of a juvenile bomb maker, the current national statistics on juveniles and bombs and the precursors and instrumentalities showcased by the Internet. Participants will be provided with pre- and post- blast investigative techniques from the “Bomb Tech” perspective that will include a discussion of the issue as it relates to educational institutions. The “Bomb Techs” presentation will include static display, a canine and robot demo, and will utilize actual case examples to highlight teaching points.

This seminar will also give participants a “criminal investigators” perspective that will be highlighted by a section on “how to build a case” that incorporates sound investigative principles and juvenile legal issues. This seminar will also have a clinical perspective that examines emotional and behavioral functioning of juveniles engaged in bomb making. What are the considerations when there is a need to identify appropriate mental health or social services?

This seminar is designed for a multi-disciplinary audience to include:

- Public Safety First Responders - Red and Blue teams
- ADA's
- School personnel
- Fire Safety/JFS Educators
- JFS Clinicians
- MA & RI IAAI members
- Probation Officers
- School resource officers
- Case workers
- Educators

*6.5 contact hours available toward educator PDPs*

Course #:	200-039-951 Session A
Date:	April 29, 2010
Time:	9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Location:	Devens Common Center, Devens, MA <a href="http://www.devenscommoncenter.com">www.devenscommoncenter.com</a>
Cost:	\$30.00 would include breaks and lunch for each attendee

*Payment in advance is required. Please submit a completed standard DFS / MFA student application along with your money order or personal check for \$30.00, made payable to “The Massachusetts Firefighting Academy Trust Fund” to the address below. NOTE: Cash will NOT be accepted and purchase orders will ONLY be accepted for reserving a spot.*

*Application can be obtained at [www.mass.gov/dfs](http://www.mass.gov/dfs).*

**Mail to:** Registrar  
Massachusetts Firefighting Academy  
State Road, P.O. Box 1025, Stow, MA 01775  
(978) 567-3200



Department of Fire Services / Massachusetts State Police Fire and Explosion Investigation

**\*\*\*There is NO COST for any of these training sessions\*\*\***



## **FIRE PREVENTION APRIL SCHEDULE 2010**



### **M.G.L. c. 148A FIRE CODE VIOLATIONS AND THE TICKETING PROCESS**

As an alternative to the criminal process local code enforcement officers may cite for approved violations of the State Fire Code – 527 CMR. This course will cover the ticketing process, evidence collection, written documentation as well as problems to avoid.

New Date	Location
Course #: 200-000-668-A Date: April 28, 2010 Time: 0900-1200 Location: Department of Fire Services - West	Department of Fire Services Western MA Office One Prince Street Northampton, MA

*Register Early!*

**Mail to:** Registrar  
Massachusetts Firefighting Academy  
State Road, P.O. Box 1025, Stow, MA 01775  
(978) 567-3200

**Or Fax it to:**  
(978) 567-3229

Additional information & applications can be obtained @ [www.mass.gov/dfs](http://www.mass.gov/dfs)



**Department of Fire Services / Division of Fire Safety – Code Enforcement Training**

**\*\*\*There is NO COST for any of these training sessions\*\*\***



## **FIRE PREVENTION MAY SCHEDULE 2010**



### **\*\* Two-Part Course \*\***

#### **BFPR UPDATES TO REVIEW NEW & REVISED 527 CMR SECTIONS**

This program will review changes and additions made by the Board of Fire Prevention. It will provide an opportunity for fire service personnel to get information on the latest code changes.

*(AND)*

#### **HAZARD CLASSIFICATIONS FOR NFPA 13 SPRINKLER DESIGN**

This course will address Chapter 3 and Chapter 5 of NFPA 13, Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems. The course will cover items that need to be reviewed in the fire sprinkler submittals to ensure the designer has adequately classified the hazards. Participants should have an understanding of the fire sprinkler system plan review process.

<b>List of Dates</b>	<b>Locations</b>
Course #: 200-000-644-A <b>Date: May 3, 2010</b> Time: 0900-1200 Location: Andover Town House Banquet Facility	Andover Town House Banquet Facility 20 Main Street, 2nd Floor, Andover, MA <i>Use municipal parking lot to the rear</i>
Course #: 200-000-644-B <b>Date: May 4, 2010</b> Time: 0900-1200 Location: Department of Fire Services	Department of Fire Services One State Road, Stow, MA <i>Classroom 109</i>
Course #: 200-000-644-C <b>Date: May 10, 2010</b> Time: 0900-1200 Location: Western New England College	Western New England College 1215 Wilbraham Road, Springfield, MA
Course #: 200-000-644-D <b>Date: May 14, 2010</b> Time: 0900-1200 Location: UMASS - Dartmouth	University of Massachusetts – Dartmouth Woodland Campus 285 Westport Road, Dartmouth, MA <i>Use Parking Lot #7</i>
Course #: 200-000-644-E <b>Date: May 17, 2010</b> Time: 1830-2130 Location: Easthampton Fire Department	Easthampton Fire Department 32 Payson Avenue, Easthampton, MA
Course #: 200-000-644-F <b>Date: May 18, 2010</b> Time: 1830-2130 Location: Department of Fire Services	Department of Fire Services One State Road, Stow, MA <i>Classroom 109</i>

*Register Early!*

**Mail to:** Registrar  
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Additional information & applications can be obtained @ [www.mass.gov/dfs](http://www.mass.gov/dfs)



**Department of Fire Services / Division of Fire Safety – Code Enforcement Training**



# Department of Fire Services

## CHIEF FIRE OFFICER ORIENTATION

The purpose of this two-day presentation is to provide executive and administrative fire officers, an opportunity to learn of the assistance available from public and private sector agencies and entities. The program has been designed to be beneficial to chiefs, senior executive and administrative fire officers by providing vital information sources that will result in a positive impact on the administration of their organization and expanding their contact network.

### Partnering Agencies Invited

The Department of Fire Services  
Commonwealth Fusion Center  
Department of Public Safety  
Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency  
Massachusetts National Guard  
E911 Department  
Department of Conservation and Recreation Bureau of Forest Fire Control  
Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection  
State Ethics Commission  
State Inspector General  
Joint Labor Management Committee  
Department of Public Health Office of Emergency Medical Services  
Massachusetts Correctional Industries  
Massachusetts Department of Transportation  
Executive Office of Administration & Finance/Operational Services Division  
FEMA Region 1  
FEMA Urban Search and Rescue  
United States Coast Guard  
Massachusetts Municipal Association  
Fire Chiefs Association of Massachusetts – Massachusetts Mobilization Plan  
Massachusetts Corps of Fire Chaplains  
CISM Teams  
American Red Cross  
Juvenile Firesetters Coalition  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Massachusetts Division of Occupational Safety  
Occupational Safety & Health Administration  
Insurance Services Office (ISO)



The program schedule will be as follows:

<b>Day 1</b>	
<b>0900 Welcome and Introductions</b>	<b>State Fire Marshal, Stephen D. Coan FCAM President, Chief Coulombe</b>
<b>0930 Laws, Regulations, &amp; Liability</b>	<b>DFS General Counsel, Steven Rourke</b>
<b>1015 Break</b>	
<b>1030 Agency Presentations</b>	<b>Partnering Agencies</b>
<b>1200 Lunch</b>	
<b>1300 Presentations Resume</b>	<b>Partnering Agencies</b>
<b>1440 Break</b>	
<b>1500 Presentations Resume</b>	
<b>1700 End Day 1</b>	
<b>Day 2</b>	
<b>0900 Agency Presentations</b>	<b>Partnering Agencies</b>
<b>1000 Break</b>	
<b>1020 Presentations Resume</b>	
<b>1100 Department of Fire Services</b>	<b>DFS Division Heads</b>
<b>1300 Conclusion</b>	

**Prerequisites:** This is a **Priority Selection** course.

**Application Procedure:** Please complete the standard DFS/MFA student application, accessible online @ [www.mass.gov/dfs](http://www.mass.gov/dfs)

**Method of Payment:** personal or bank check, money order, or Fire Department purchase order payable to: **Massachusetts Firefighting Academy Trust Fund**

**Mail to:** Registrar  
Massachusetts Firefighting Academy  
P.O. Box 1025  
Stow, MA 01775

<b>Course #:</b>	<b>200-039-594 Session A</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>April 12 – 13, 2010</b>
	<b>Day 1 0900-1700</b>
	<b>Day 2 0900-1300</b>
<b>Location:</b>	<b>Devens Conference Center, Devens, MA.</b>
<b>Registration Fee:</b>	<b>\$25.00 per person (includes lunch on day 1 and coffee on both days)</b>

If you have any questions: (978) 567-3200



*Department of Fire Services / Massachusetts Firefighting Academy*



- ❖ Cords or wires that are nailed into place. This can cause electrical shorts and arcing.
- ❖ Indoor appliances and cords being used outdoors.

### MAINTENANCE

Electrical wiring, like all other systems, needs maintenance and inspection. Have your electrical system examined by a licensed electrician every 10 years. All electrical work should be done by a licensed electrician who obtains a permit when required. The permit process protects homeowners by requiring that an inspector check that the work is done correctly.



### Arc Fault Circuit Interrupter (AFCI)

An arc fault circuit interrupter is a new device designed to actually reduce the likelihood of fires. It responds to arcing and sparking within a circuit before the circuit breaker or fuse trips. The AFCI breaker trips to help prevent the fire from occurring in the first place.

The AFCI is installed at the electrical panel and doesn't look much different than a regular circuit breaker.

Don't confuse the AFCI with GFCI. Both devices serve different functions.

AFCIs are mostly found in newly built homes, but can easily be installed in older homes equipped with circuit breakers.

### Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter (GFCI)

Installing Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter (GFCI) receptacles could cut deaths from electrical shock in and around the home by two-thirds. They should be installed by a qualified electrician in places near water such as kitchen counters, bathrooms and other areas subject to moisture, including outdoors.



### PREVENTING ELECTROCUTIONS AND SHOCKS

#### Safety Tips:

- ❖ Read and follow instructions and safety tips provided with electrical appliances and equipment.
- ❖ Install plastic safety covers in unused receptacles to protect children from shock hazard.
- ❖ When unplugging a cord or appliance from an outlet, pull the plug not the cord. Pulling by the cord can cause damage to the wiring at the connection.
- ❖ Do not defeat polarized plugs (one prong larger than the other) or the third or ground prong.
- ❖ Keep electrical appliances and cords away from water. Keep yourself alive by keeping water and electricity separate.



# Preventing Electrical Fires at Home



**Stephen D. Coan**  
State Fire Marshal

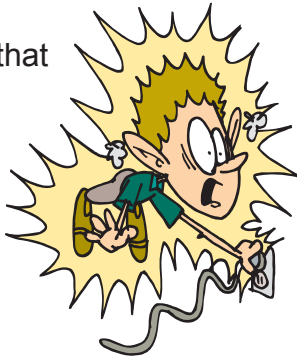
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# **ELECTRICITY is a powerful energy source that must be treated with care and respect.**

When we think about electricity, we think about electric current. Electric current is the power running along wires in our home and generates heat as it travels. The electrical current is like water running through a hose. The size of the cord can carry only so much electricity before it starts to overheat. The insulation on home wiring, fuses and other parts of the electrical system, are all designed to carry a certain amount of electricity safely. The more electricity you draw along a cord, the more quickly it heats up. For instance, an appliance like a space heater can draw a lot of current and needs to be plugged in with a properly designed cord.

## **EXTENSION CORDS**

The plugs on cords are the places where heat builds up and the more cords you connect together, the more trouble spots you have. The connection between an extension cord and an appliance cord does not have the same safety features (like fuses or circuit breakers) as those that are built into a wall socket. That is why extension cords are for temporary use only.



## **ELECTRICAL FIRES: A LEADING CAUSE OF FIRE DEATHS**

From 2002-2006, Massachusetts fire departments reported 2,499 home fires caused by electrical problems. These fires caused 17 civilian deaths, 115 civilian injuries, 290 fire service injuries and an estimated dollar loss of \$84 million. The average loss per fire was \$34,303. Electrical fires were the 3rd leading cause of fire deaths in 2006.

## **POTENTIAL WARNING SIGNS & HAZARDS**

***Call the fire department immediately if you have any of these warning signs:***

- ❖ Arcs, sparks or short circuits
- ❖ Sizzling or buzzing sound
- ❖ Odors, vague smell of something burning

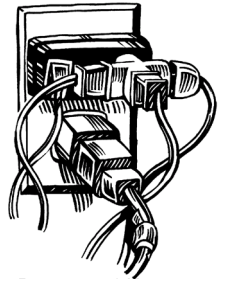
Firefighters can use thermal imaging technology to see excessive heat inside the walls.

***Call a professional electrician soon if you have any of these warning signs:***

- ❖ Frequently blown fuses or tripped circuit breakers;
- ❖ Dim or flickering lights, bulbs that wear out too fast;
- ❖ Overheated plugs, cords or switches;
- ❖ Shock or mild tingle – more than normal static electricity;
- ❖ Loose plugs; or
- ❖ Unusually warm or faulty outlets or switches.

***You should look around for these hazards in your home and correct them:***

- ❖ Cords pinched behind furniture like couches or bureaus.
- ❖ Overloaded outlets – more than one appliance cord plugged into one wall outlet.
- ❖ Overloaded powerstrips. They should only be used with a few low current devices such as electronics.
- ❖ Lamps or fixtures with light bulbs higher than the recommended wattage. Most lamps recommend 60 watts. Be careful where you use higher wattage light bulbs.
- ❖ Electrical cords underneath rugs, carpet or furniture. Move them to reduce the risk of fire from overheating due to worn insulation.
- ❖ Cords with frayed wires or cracked insulation. Replace them with new ones having a certification label from an independent testing laboratory.



- ❖ An extension cord that is not properly rated for the appliance it powers. Typical “lamp cord” extension cords cannot carry the electrical current needed for appliances such as space heaters or air conditioners.